

CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

NEWS SERVICE

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ADV FOR PMS MON MAY 1

THE LIGHTER SIDE

TELLING IT LIKE WE WISH IT HAD BEEN

BY DICK WEST

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- FOR ANYONE SUFFERING FROM THE TELEVISION
 BLAHs, RELIEF MAY BE JUST A SEASON AWAY.

CURRENTLY BEING CONTEMPLATED IS A NEW ADVENTURE SERIES BASED ON
 SOME OF THE ACTUAL OPERATIONS OF THE CIA.

WITH THE RIGHT CAST, SCRIPWRITERS AND DIRECTOR, A SHOW LIKE THAT
 COULD MAKE FOR SOME DYNAMITE VIEWING.

ALTHOUGH THE PROJECT IS STILL HIGHLY TENTATIVE AT THIS POINT,
 THERE ARE INDICATIONS THE CIA MIGHT TO SOME EXTENT COOPERATE WITH THE
 PRODUCERS MUCH AS THE FBI DID IN AN EARLIER SERIES THAT HAD A
 FIVE-YEAR RUN.

OCCASIONALLY, DURING THE SERIES BASED ON ACTUAL CASES IN THE FILES
 OF THE FBI, SUSPICIONS WERE VOICED THAT SOME EPISODES HAD BEEN
 CHANGED AROUND A BIT TO MAKE THE AGENCY LOOK GOOD.

ALTHOUGH CERTAIN DETAILS UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD HAVE TO BE SANITIZED
 FOR SECURITY REASONS, I'M SURE THE CIA WOULD NEVER CONDONE COSMETIC
 FICTIONALIZING FOR THE SAKE OF THE RATINGS OR ITS OWN REPUTATION.

CIA-RELATED EVENTS THAT WOULD LEND THEMSELVES TO TV ADAPTATION
 INCLUDE THE EVACUATION OF VIETNAMESE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES DURING THE
 FALL OF SAIGON, THE BREAK-IN AT DANIEL ELLSBERG'S PSYCHIATRIST'S
 OFFICE AND GARY POWERS' U-2 FLIGHT OVER THE SOVIET UNION IN THE
 1950s.

FOR OPENERS, I'D LIKE TO SEE A DRAMATIZATION OF THE FAMOUS BAY OF
 PIGS OPERATION IN THE EARLY 1960s. THE SCENARIO MIGHT ROUGHLY TAKE
 THIS FORM:

PROGRAM TITLE AND CREDITS APPEAR ON TUBE OVER OLD FILM SHOTS OF
 FIDEL CASTRO FLAUNTING HIS CIGAR AND THREATENING TO EXPORT CUBA'S
 BRAND OF COMMUNISM TO OTHER PARTS OF WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

DISSOLVE AND SWITCH TO AUTO PROCEEDING NORTH ALONG GEORGE WASHINGTON PARKWAY TOWARD LANGLEY, VA. AT WHEEL IS AN ACTOR WE LATER COME TO KNOW AS AGENT TWITT. (SONNY BONO WOULD BE GREAT IN THE PART.)

AT EXIT MARKED "U.S. BUREAU OF HIGHWAYS," CAR TURNS OFF AND PULLS UP AT CIA HEADQUARTERS. CAMERA FOLLOWS AGENT TWITT THROUGH SERIES OF SECURITY CHECKS AND INTO CONFERENCE ROOM.

DISCUSSION INVOLVES CASTRO MENACE AND POSSIBLE WAYS TO NEUTRALIZE IT.

ONE EXPERT RECOMMENDS SLIPPING LOADED CIGAR INTO CASTRO'S HUMIDOR, CAUSING HIM TO LOSE FACE WHEN IT EXPLODES. ANOTHER SUGGESTS INFECTING HIS BEARD WITH DANDRUFF, MAKING IT APPEAR TO HAVE TURNED GREY AND THUS CAUSING HIM TO LOSE YOUTHFUL APPEAL.

FINALLY IT IS AGREED THE SIMPLIEST OPERATION WOULD BE TO INVADE THE ISLAND AND TOUCH OFF COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT THAT WOULD OVERTHROW THE DICTATOR.

AGENT TWITT IS PUT IN CHARGE OF INVASION.

IN FINAL SCENE, WE SEE AN ARMY OF CUBAN EXILES LANDING IN BAY OF PIGS. PEASANTS WORKING IN SUGARCANE FIELDS GRAB THEIR MACHETES AND JOIN THE MARCH ON HAVANA.

CASTRO, SEEING THAT THE PEOPLE HAVE TURNED AGAINST HIM, FLEES THE COUNTRY IN A SOVIET PLANE AND TAKES REFUGE IN MOSCOW.

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